

home, and gathered a good many varieties of fresh-water and land shells which I have always kept.

Ill-health has prevented my doing much collecting the past year, and my attempted exchanges have been unfortunate in almost every case. However, I do not consider a "collection" the most important part of *any* study, though I must confess it adds pleasure to it. Last July I very much enjoyed the class in conchology taught by Mrs. Shepard, and found profit also.

I spent one afternoon capturing what mollusks I could besiege in their homes in the sand and mud at the mouth of the river above Alamitos, stopping long enough at "Devil's Gate" to waylay with a hatchet a few of the inhabitants of the soft rock, such as *Pholadidea penita* Conr., and *Platyodon cancellatus* Conr. *Nassa tegula* Rve., *Cerithidea sacrata* Gld. were enjoying a promenade on the mud, and it seemed a pity to end their happiness, unless I accept the belief of Agassiz, Cuvier and others in the immortality of animals.

I noticed a good many small holes in the sand, some with little mounds around them, like those made in the earth by some of the insect world, and, I found, on excavating them, that some of my little molluscan friends were at the bottom of the contrivance for breathing. I brought to light *Donax flexuosus* Gld., *Liocardium substriatum*, *Lyonsia californica* Conr. and *Heterodonax bimaculatus* D'Orb.

HENRY D. VAN NOSTRAND.

It is with regret that we record the death of Mr. Henry D. Van Nostrand, which occurred at his residence in Glen Ridge, N. J., on the morning of the 8th of October.

Mr. Van Nostrand was born in New York City about 73 years ago, and was long actively engaged there in mercantile business as a member of the firm of J. & H. Van Nostrand, wholesale grocers, which was founded near the beginning of the present century by his father.

Early in life he became interested in the study of conchology, and began a collection of shells which will rank with some of the best private collections in the country. The nucleus of it was that of the late John A. Redfield, which he purchased from Mr. Redfield about 40 years ago.

Until within a few years, Mr. Van Nostrand resided at Greenville, near Jersey City, N. J., where he was a prominent and highly esteemed citizen. There, in his beautiful and hospitable home on the shore of New York Bay, he entertained many noted conchologists, including the great collector, Hugh Cuming.

He was one of the earliest members of the New York Lyceum of Natural History, and among his intimate associates were Messrs. Redfield, W. G. Binney, Robt. Swift, Wheatley and Haines, but his closest friend was the late Thomas Bland, for whom he had a most affectionate regard which was reciprocated by that distinguished naturalist. After the death of Mr. Bland, Mr. Van Nostrand raised a fund to provide for the monument which now marks his grave in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, near that of Mr. Redfield. He frequently expressed to the writer his affection for the memory of his deceased friend, and only a short while before his death planned a visit to Mr. Bland's grave, which he was not able to carry out.

Mr. Van Nostrand's cabinet is rich in many families, both marine and terrestrial, particularly so in cones, olives, volutes, cypræas and mitras. It also contains the larger and better portion of the Bland collection of West Indian land shells, the labels of which are in the hand-writing of Mr. Bland. It also contains many choice specimens obtained from the Perry Expedition. It is to be regretted that Mr. Van Nostrand made no provision for the disposition of this truly valuable collection which should adorn some one of our great public institutions. Several species of shells have been named in his honor, among them *Helix Van Nostrandi* Bland, of our southern States.

A gentleman of the old school, a kind and generous friend, he will be missed and his memory cherished by those whose good fortune it was to know him.—S. RAYMOND ROBERTS.

[COMMUNICATED.]

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CONCHOLOGISTS.

A number of representative members of the American Association of Conchologists in various parts of the country, having expressed their desire to renew the activity of the Association, the initiative was taken by a gentleman of Philadelphia, not a former officer,